

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 078403

FOR ASST SECY SISCO

FOLLOWING MESSAGE SENT SECSTATE INFO AMMAN JIDDA KUWAIT TELAVIV
CAIRO DTD APR 25, 1973 FROM BEIRUT

QUOTE BEIRUT 4827

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV LE PINT

SUBJECT: NEW LEBANESE CABINET FORMED

SUMMARY: NEW CABINET ANNOUNCED AT NOON APR 25 CONSIDERABLY
MORE HOMOGENEOUS AND LIKELY BE MUCH MORE RESPONSIVE TO
GUIDANCE FROM FRANGIE THAN ITS PREDECESSOR AND THUS POLICY
TOWARDS US UNCHANGED. OF SEVENTEEN MINISTERS, FOUR ARE NON-
DEPUTIES AND NONE ARE MAJOR POLITICAL FIGURES. THERE IS IN-
CREASED ACCENT ON YOUTH AND COMPETENCE. KEY MINISTRIES OF
FINANCE, FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE ARE IN HANDS OF FRANGIES
PERSONAL CHOICES, WHILE MINISTER OF INTERIOR (CHAMOUNIST)
SHOULD POSE NO OBSTACLE TO FRANGIES WISHES. END SUMMARY.

1. NEW CABINET WILL CONSIST OF SEVENTEEN MINISTERS, INCLUDING
PRIME MINISTER HAFEZAN WITH DEPUTY FOUAD GHOSN (LONG TIME
FRANGIE FOLLOWER) AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF
DEFENSE. PRIME MINISTER WILL ALSO HOLD PORTFOLIO OF MINISTER
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INFORMATION. FOREIGN MINISTER
ABOU HAMAL RETURNS TO HIS
POST AS DOES FINANCE MINISTER FOUAD NAFFA AND MINISTER OF
HYDRAULIC RESOURCES JOSEPH SKAFF. THESE THREE ARE GENERALLY
CONSIDERED TO HAVE DONE BEST JOB AMONG PREVIOUS MINISTERS
AND EMBASSY SHARES THIS VIEW. FOUR OTHER MINISTERS OF
PREVIOUS CABINET RETURN IN NEW CAPACITIES, NOTABLY KHATCHIK
BABIKIAN AS MINISTER OF PLAN (FOR WHICH HE WELL QUALIFIED)
AND MALLEABLE BESHIR AWAR AS MINISTER OF INTERIOR. FIRST
TIME MINISTERS INCLUDE PRESIDENTS SON DEPUTY TONY FRANGIE
AS MINISTER OF PTT AND DEPUTY ALI KHALIL AS MINISTER TOURISM,
POLITICALLY UNIMPORTANT POSTS WHICH APPEAR LOGICAL SLOTS FOR
INCLUSION MOST PROMISING AMONG YOUNG RIGHT WING (TONY FRANGIEBL
AND LEFT WING (ALI KHALIL) DEPUTIES. REMAINDER OF MINISTERS
SEEM TO HAVE BEEN CHOSEN WITH VIEW TO CONTENTING (TO SOME
DEGREE) TRADITIONAL POLITICAL LEADERS AND HEAD OF BLOCS IN
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

2. PULLING AND HAULING BETWEEN THESE TRADITIONAL POLITICAL LEADERS
HELD UP FORMATION OF CABINET FOR SEVERAL DAYS AND RESULTED IN
APPOINTMENT FOUR NON- DEPUTIES. UNWILLINGNESS OF SOME
(E. G., JUMBLATT) TO SERVE, EXCEPT ON OWN CONDITINS, APPARENTLY
BLOCKED HAFEZS ORIGINAL IDEA OF CABINET INCLUDING MAJOR
FIGURES. AS IT STANDS, AT LEAST SIX MEMBERS NEW CABINET HAVE
LONG BEEN CLOSE TO FRANGIE. CHAMOUN HAS THREE FOLLOWERS, IN-
CLUDING MINISTER INTERIOR BESHIR AWAR. NO OTHER MAJOR
LEADER HAS MORE THAN ONE. NONE OF FORMER PM SAEB SALAMS
BLOC OF DEPUTIES IS INCLUDED, WHILE HIS TWO MINISTERS IN PREVIOUS
CABINET BOTH DROPPED IN WHAT APPEARS AS CLEAR SIGN FRANGIE
DISPLEASURE.

3. BREAKDOWN OF CABINET IS AS FOLLOWS:
PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND ACTING MIN HEALTH,
A. I. DR. AMIN AL HAFIZ

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE FOUAD GHOSN

MINISTER OF JUSTICE KAZIM AL KHALIL

MINISTER OF TOURISM ALI AL KHALIL

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MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE FEHMI CHAHIN

MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND PETROLEUM ZAKARIA NSOULI

MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND COMMERCE BAHJE TABBARRA

MINISTER OF INTERIOR BESHIR AL AWAR

MINISTER OF PTT TONY FRANGIE

MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND LABOR EMILE ROUHANA

MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION EDMOND RIZK

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS KHALIL ABOU HAMAD

MINISTER OF HYDRO- ELECTRIC RESOURCES JOSEPH SKAFF

MINISTER OF FINANCE FOUAD NAFFA

MINISTER OF HOUSING AND COOPERATIVES MICHEL SASSINE

MINISTER OF PLANNING KHATCHIK BABIKIAN

MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS CHEIKH NAJIB ALAMEDDINE

4. WE WILL PROVIDE BIO ON NEW CABINET BY AIRGRAM AND WILL COMMENT
ON SUCH QUESTIONS AS LIKELY ATTITUDE RE FEDAYEEN WHEN MORE INFO
AVAILABLE. CLEARLY PRIMARY BURDEN OF STATE WILL REST ON SHOULDERS
OF PRESIDENT FRANGIE, MORE THAN EVER BEFORE.
BUFFUM

UNQUOTE ROGERS

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NMAFVVZCZ

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